

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 15 are in the application. The latest Office Action dated Oct. 30, 2008 indicates that claims 1-6, 8 and 15 are rejected, while claim 7 is objected to. The Office Action is deemed Final.

In a telephonic interview, the Examiner indicated that the “unobvious constraint of 15 # at least of crush strength as recited in claim 7,” if added to claim 1, would permit allowance of the claims over the art of record. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner confirmed this position.

To that end, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the “granules” have “an average crush strength of at least about 15 pounds per inch of thickness.” Support for this amendment is found in at least paragraphs [14], [18], [42], [63], [83], [85], [137], [138], [149] and [150] of the specification and claim 7 as originally filed.

Claim 7 has been amended to delete its reference to the crush strength as it is ultimately dependent on claim 1 wherein that same recitation now appears.

Claim 15 has been amended to cure an obvious typographical error.

Entry of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested. Entry is believed proper as they will place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's assistance and cooperation in facilitating the prosecution of this application is appreciated.

A prompt and favorable action is requested. Please continue to address all correspondence in this Application to Albemarle Corporation at the address of record.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Edgar E. Spielman/

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